

# ~~Speaker Registration~~/Testimony

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Meeting Date	03-22-2017
Council/PH Committee	ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item	Bill 13
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?	No
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20170321164220_Bill_13_-_Homeless_Iwilei.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

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COUNCIL

3/22/2017

Hello,

I am writing this testimony in support of Bill 13. I have worked and maintained a facility in the Iwilei district for the past 5 years and have always had to deal with a homeless presence. Periodically cleaning up after them and fixing random acts of vandalism and occasionally using HPD to help clear the street when their activities became too disruptive. While bothersome and somewhat wasteful of our time and money, it was acceptable. I feel for those living in poverty and who are in need of assistance and I think that the City and State should provide every opportunity for those in need. However, the growing homeless community in Iwilei is becoming larger, denser, more entrenched, and seems to be more and more comprised of mentally ill, drug users, delinquents and criminals. These people are not interested in using government aid to better their lives and climb out of poverty, but etching out a more comfortable homeless life in Iwilei by taking what they need and stealing what they can.

The encampments at my site are now perennial. They are vandalizing and trespassing almost daily, leaving trash, needles and human waste behind. I've submitted several police reports whenever they break or steal something of greater value and more than once they started a fire that spread onto my site. Fortunately the resulting fire damage was inconsequential, but it very easily could have spread and resulted in substantial damage and injury.

I realize this is a complicated issue, and I'm not suggesting that I have a good solution, but something must be done to curb the downward spiral of Iwilei. Anyone who walks through the area can see how much worse it has gotten over the last 5 years. We need something to be done. The mentally ill do not belong on the street. Chronic drug abusers and criminals do not belong on the street. I'd say near half of the homeless in Iwilei fall into these categories. Almost every day I walk by a half dozen people who are passed-out, appear "strung-out" or are talking/screaming at trees, birds, passing cars or worse of all other people.

It is the duty of our government and subsequently the HPD to serve and protect. You don't hesitate to jump into action to protect us from ourselves by issuing a jaywalking ticket to an otherwise law abiding citizen, who enters the crosswalk 2 seconds too late, but you seem to look the other way while an obviously mentally ill or drug influenced person pushes 3 shopping carts down the middle of Nimitz Highway, screaming at something or someone. I wonder who the bigger danger to themselves and others is. These people do not belong on the street and you can't expect the citizens of Iwilei to deal with this overwhelming issue themselves. Every day you look the other way is another day you shoulder the responsibility and repercussions of their actions.

Please take action on this matter, Thank you.